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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/603,323

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Esa Nettamo

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10/26/2006

Hollingsworth & Funk, LLC
Suite 125
8009 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55425

EXAMINER

TRAN, TUYETLIEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 10/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,323

Applicant(s)

NETTAMO, ESA

Examiner

TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/18/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This application has been examined. The original claims 1-32 are pending. The examination results are as follows.

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C 119(a)-(d). The certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The examiner has considered the documents listed in forms PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) received on 07/18/2003 (see the attached form PTO-1449).

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it has more than one paragraph. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

4. Claims 5 and 18-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: the term "fulfilment" is a typo. It should be changed to "fulfillment". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-14, 17-18, 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ebisawa (Patent No. US 6,369,802 B1, hereinafter simply referred to as Ebisawa).

As to claims 1 and 13, Ebisawa teaches:

A method of identifying symbols in a portable electronic device and a portable electronic device (i.e., handwritten data input device, see Fig. 1) comprising: a screen (i.e., the tablet 2), a contact surface in the screen area covering at least part of the screen area (i.e., form detector and clip 6), and a contact area for symbol creation located in the contact surface area (i.e., a reference character frame (see col. 10, lines 55-57 and dotted-frame as shown in Fig. 15B), the method comprising:

detecting the start of a symbol creation function (i.e., step B2 in Fig. 5 and text from col. 5, lines 5-20);

enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation after the start of the symbol creation function (i.e., the reference frame is expanded to cover the written symbol, see Fig. 15B);

interpreting a symbol created in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation (i.e., the written symbol is interpreted as '4', see Fig. 15B).

As to claims 2 and 14, Ebisawa teaches further comprising detecting the start of the symbol creation function (i.e., step B2 in Fig. 5 and text from col. 5, lines 5-20) based on a touch in the contact area for symbol creation (i.e., step D1 in Fig. 12 and associated text in col. 9 lines 19-22).

As to claims 4 and 17, Ebisawa teaches further comprising enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation in the screen area by at least 25 percent (i.e., the expanded character frame in Fig. 15B is at least 25% larger than its original size in Fig. 15A).

As to claims 5 and 18, Ebisawa teaches further comprising detecting the fulfilment of an end condition (i.e., the device detects when the user finishes inputting symbol "4" as shown in Fig. 15A and 15B) and interpreting the symbol created in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation once the fulfilment of the end condition is detected (step E4 in Fig. 14).

As to claims 8 and 21, Ebisawa teaches further comprising giving a signal at the start of the symbol creation function (i.e., the pen approaches the tablet, see step B1 in Fig. 5).

As to claims 9 and 22, Ebisawa teaches further comprising giving said signal for indicating the location of the enlarged contact area for symbol creation in the enlarged contact area for symbol creation (i.e., dotted-frame as shown in Fig. 15B).

As to claims 10 and 23, Ebisawa teaches wherein said signal is a light, voice or vibration signal (i.e., alarm tone from the buzzer as shown in step B3 in Fig. 5 and vibration signal from a movable actuation lever 16a as seen in Fig. 6).

As to claims 11 and 24, Ebisawa teaches further comprising interrupting the signalling if the touch moves outside the enlarged contact area for symbol creation (i.e., moving the pen out-of-range, see col. 5, lines 5-20).

As to claims 12 and 25, Ebisawa further teaches wherein said symbol is one or more letters, digits, images or a combination thereof including two or more symbols (see Fig. 13C-13D and text from col. 10 lines 63-67 to col. 11 lines 1-5).

As to claim 26, Ebisawa further teaches wherein the portable electronic device is a mobile station (see Fig. 1 and text from col. 3, lines 28-44).

As to claim 27, Ebisawa further teaches wherein the portable electronic device is a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) device or a portable computer (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

As to claim 28, Ebisawa teaches further comprising means for establishing a telecommunication connection (i.e., communication link and the like, see Fig. 2 and col. 3 lines 48-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 3, 6-7, 15-16, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebisawa in view of Okamoto et al (Patent No 5,502,461; hereinafter simply referred to as Okamoto).

As to claims 3 and 15, Ebisawa teaches the limitations of claims 1 and 13 for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1 and 13 above. However, Ebisawa fails to expressly teach that detecting the start of the symbol creation function based on a start signal given with a signalling device.

Okamoto, though, teaches comprising detecting the start of the symbol creation function based on a start signal given (i.e., selecting key 261 as shown in Fig. 2) with a signalling device (i.e., pen 1C in Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the function of character type selecting area as taught by Okamoto to the handwritten data input device as taught by Ebisawa to determine which type of symbols are to be recognized for accurate interpretation (see Okamoto col. 6, lines 52-54).

As to claim 16, Ebisawa teaches the limitations of claim 13 for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 13 above. However, Ebisawa does not expressly teach the means for enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation are configured to enlarge the size of the contact area based on control given by a touch screen or other user interface comprised by the device. Okamoto, though, teaches wherein the means for enlarging the size of the contact area for symbol creation (i.e., character writing frames 241-244, see Fig. 15) are configured to enlarge the size of the contact area based on control (i.e., menu 32 as shown in Fig. 14A) given by a touch screen (i.e., tablet 1A and 1B in Fig. 1) or other user interface (i.e., display area as shown in Fig. 2) comprised by the device (a hand written character input device, see col. 1, lines 9-13). Thus, combining Ebisawa and Okamoto would meet the claimed limitation for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 3 and 15 above.

As to claims 6 and 19, Ebisawa teaches the limitations of claims 5 and 18 for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 5 and 18 above. However, Ebisawa does not expressly teach that the symbol creation function end condition being fulfilled when an end command is detected. Okamoto, though, teaches wherein the symbol creation function end condition being fulfilled when an end command is detected (i.e., the user select the "ENT" command for designating transfer of the characters which have been written in character writing frames 241-244 to document area 20, see Fig. 4). Thus, combining Ebisawa and Okamoto would meet the claimed limitation for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 3 and 15 above.

As to claims 7 and 20, Ebisawa teaches the limitations of claims 5 and 18 for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 5 and 18 above. However, Ebisawa does not expressly teach that the symbol creation function end condition being fulfilled when no touch is detected in the contact area for symbol creation within a given time. Okamoto, though, teaches wherein the symbol creation function end condition being fulfilled when no touch is detected in the contact area for symbol creation within a given time (see col. 7, lines 6-12). Thus, combining Ebisawa and Okamoto would meet the claimed limitation for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 3 and 15 above.

9. Claims 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebisawa.

As to claim 29, Ebisawa teaches the limitations of claim 28 for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 28 above. However, Ebisawa does not expressly disclose that the telecommunication connection is a connection to be implemented in a mobile network. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a connection to be implemented in a mobile network, in view of Ebisawa, because Ebisawa suggests to the skilled artisan that a communication link is utilized between the devices (see col. 3, lines 48-64) to provide the function of communicating with other devices in public mobile telecommunications services.

As to claim 30, Ebisawa teaches the limitations of claim 28 for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 28 above. However, Ebisawa does not expressly disclose that the telecommunication connection is an Internet connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the internet connection, in view of Ebisawa, because Ebisawa suggests to the skilled artisan that a communication link is utilized between the devices (see col. 3, lines 48-64) to access to a worldwide network of computer to facilitate data transmission and exchange.

As to claims 31 and 32, Ebisawa teaches the limitations of claim 28 for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 28 above. However, Ebisawa does not expressly disclose that the telecommunication connection is a short-range wireless connection including Bluetooth, infrared or WLAN connection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the a short-range wireless connection including Bluetooth, infrared or WLAN connection, in view of Ebisawa, because Ebisawa suggests to the skilled artisan that a communication link is utilized between the devices (see col. 3, lines 48-64) to replace the need for wires connecting electronic devices such as personal computers, printers, palm top computers and mobile phones.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Publication No. US 2003/0016873 A1 is cited to teach a handheld device such as PDA with a graphical user interface for entering handwritten text.

Patent No. 6,049,329 is cited to teach a method and system for facilitating stylus input into a text entry field in a pen-based computer system.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-270-1033. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday: 7:30 - 5:00 (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2179

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T.T
10/18/2006

Lien Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2179

BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER